

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2017

PRESENT: Mayor Elizabeth White and Councilmembers Ari Bernstein, Jackie McSwiggan, Steve Sasso, Jim Strauch and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: Councilmember Liz Homan

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Ray Wiss
Municipal Clerk Anne Dodd

A Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale was held in the Municipal Building at 500 West Crescent Avenue, Allendale, NJ on April 6, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by Mayor White who asked that the Municipal Clerk read the open public meetings statement:

“In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. The meeting dates for the year are confirmed at the Annual Meeting, are posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building, published in the Record within the first 10 days of the New Year, and copies are sent to the Ridgewood News and Star Ledger.”

Due to the large number of audience members anticipated to speak during public comment, Mayor White advised that public comment will be heard after agenda review.

Presentations:

A. Proclamation – Officer Scott Kuenzel

Mayor White noted that Officer Kuenzel had his last D.A.R.E. graduation this morning and she read the following proclamation in his honor into the record:

**Proclamation
In Appreciation Of
Officer Scott Kuenzel**

WHEREAS, Officer Scott Kuenzel began his career as an Allendale Police Officer in December 2002; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Officer Kuenzel graduated from D.A.R.E. instructor school which involved an 80-hour training course that focused on instruction in teaching techniques, officer-school relationships, development of self-esteem, child development; and communication skills; and

WHEREAS, from 2005 to present, Officer Kuenzel has served as a D.A.R.E. Officer for 5th Grade students at Brookside School; and

WHEREAS, the D.A.R.E. curriculum has helped students recognize and successfully manage stress, evaluate risk-taking behaviors, resist gang pressure, apply effective decision-making skills, and evaluate the consequences of the choices available to them; and

WHEREAS, the D.A.R.E. program has achieved outstanding success in teaching positive and effective approaches to some of the most difficult problems facing the youth today including substance abuse, violence, and gangs; and

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WHEREAS, in 2016, D.A.R.E. was replaced with the Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD) program which delivers a strong, reasoned and effective anti-substance abuse message and officers, like Officer Kuenzel, serve as exemplary role models who form trusting and supportive relationships with both their students and their students' families; and

WHEREAS, Officer Kuenzel's physical presence has provided protection for children while they are in school and team building events have fostered a healthy and lasting partnership that transcends the school environment, allowing children to be better prepared, families more informed while relationships have been formed and memories made surrounding the concept of drug-free living; and

WHEREAS, Officer Kuenzel is handing the program over to Officer Acevedo after 12 years serving as D.A.R.E. Officer.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale hereby recognize and honor Officer Scott Kuenzel for the important role that he has played in the community as a D.A.R.E. Officer and encourage all of the residents of the Borough of Allendale to recognize his contributions to the youth of Allendale.

Mayor White expressed her sincere appreciation to Officer Kuenzel for serving in this role. She also thanked Councilwoman McSwiggan for attending the graduation this morning on her behalf.

Councilwoman McSwiggan commented that it was a lovely event and expressed that it has been her honor to work with Officer Kuenzel on both the D.A.R.E. and Municipal Alliance programs for the past eight years. She noted that he has a great rapport with the children and has been very dedicated to the cause.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor White reviewed the Regular Session agenda. She advised that the March 23rd Work and Regular Session Minutes are listed for approval. Borough Clerk Dodd noted that Councilman Sasso was absent and will need to abstain from the vote.

Mayor White advised that Ordinance 17-07 is listed for public hearing and adoption. She explained that this ordinance will allow the CAP bank to be established for 2017, noting that it will allow the Borough to bank funds for up to an additional two years for use if needed.

As as the current fence height stipulated within the Code does not comply with the standard fence height, Councilman Sasso advised that Ordinance 17-08 increases the maximum heights for fences both within and beyond 15 feet from lot lines.

Mayor White then reviewed the Consent Agenda. She highlighted Resolution #17-124, noting that this change order represents a decrease in the original contract amount.

Councilwoman Wilczynski explained that Resolution #17-127 establishes fees for the donation of a memorial bench or tree. She advised that many requests for donations of this nature are received, and they have decided to implement a program with fees that will cover the costs associated with a plaque and installation of the benches and/or planting of a tree.

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Councilwoman Wilczynski further advised that the purpose of Resolution #17-128 is to implement a 15% increase in the 2017 fees charged for Crestwood Lake membership. She noted that they conducted a survey of fees charged for approximately 20 different lakes in the area and Allendale's fees are still 40% to 60% less than the fees for use of these lakes. She further advised that the senior rates have remained flat.

With respect to Resolution #17-129, Borough Attorney Wiss advised that a motion will need to be made to table this resolution to the April 27th Regular Session. Although confirmation was received late this afternoon that all parties concurred with the wording of the settlement agreement, Borough Wiss explained that this confirmation was not in time to obtain signatures and it is, therefore, necessary to table the approval of said agreement until the next meeting.

Public Comment:

Ori Yacobi, 191 Park Avenue, detailed his involvement with Allendale Travel Baseball (ATB) and explained that due to not having enough younger players, there were issues with the younger children being able to play. He advised that all boys playing at the 11U level and below have joined the Upper Saddle River (USR) Travel Baseball program with the hope of forming a Highlands Travel Baseball program. He advised that they would like to be granted permission to use the fields within Allendale.

Alexander Orr, 49 Harreton Road, expressed his belief that ATB should fully represent the boys of Allendale. He noted that an ATB adult team comprised mostly of out of town men is permitted use of the Grandstand Field. He explained that the USR Travel Baseball team that has been formed includes 27 families from Allendale, with 3 or 4 teams being 50% Allendale boys.

Councilman Bernstein noted that within their email, they stated that they have partnered with Upper Saddle River whereas tonight they have stated that they have merged with them. He inquired which statement was correct.

Mr. Yacobi responded that as of now, they have partnered with USR and are working towards merging to form a Highlands Travel Baseball program. He pointed out that Highlands Travel Softball started in a similar fashion.

Mr. Orr noted that while Highlands Travel Softball was still considered an ATB team, Ho-Ho-Kus made its fields available and he expressed his hope that Allendale would act similarly.

As it had reached the time to commence the Regular Session, the rest of public comment was carried to the Regular Session.

Administration:

B. Mayor's Report

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was carried to the Regular Session.

C. Council Reports

Due to time constraints, this item was carried to the Regular Session.

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D. Staff Reports

Due to time constraints, this item was carried to the Regular Session.

E. Correspondence

There were no correspondence items.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilwoman McSwiggan, second by Councilman Bernstein, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk